REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing preliminary amendment is requested prior to an examination on the merits.

The changes are believed to all be supported by the application, as originally filed.

Language for new claims 30 ("polarization components") and 31 ("ellipsometric parameters") can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the original specification.

A separate Fee Transmittal Sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 22, 2004

Nanda K. Alapati (Reg. No. 39,893) Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice

Hand I aly

P.O. Box 7037

Atlanta, GA 30357-0037

703-394-2216

USPTO Customer No. 26158